GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2409
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed an agreement with Japan for grants for watershed development projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of States where the watershed projects are likely to be started with these grants?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir, an agreement has been signed in February, 2001 between India and the International Development Association (as administrator of grant funds provided by Japan), for obtaining financial assistance of US $ 3.61 lakhs for the purpose of preparation of the Karnataka Watershed Development Project. The main objective of the project is reduction of poverty by improving productive potential through decreasing soil erosion, increasing water availability and improving crop and input productivity using tested and evolving watershed treatment technologies.

In addition, a project for wasteland development called Attappady Wastelands Comprehensive Environmental Conservation Project Agali is being implemented in Palakkad district of Kerala with the assistance of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) at a total cost of Rs. 219.31 crores. The project was sanctioned in 1996 and the Japanese Agency is to provide Rs.176.89 crores as long term loan. The project aims at development of 50,700 hactares. of wastelands in 13 watersheds of Palakkad district.